

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /105 W
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R 200714Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4119

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6181

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, MY, AS

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN PRIME

MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER RAZAK ON

MUSTAPHA APPOINTMENT

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4545

1. SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN DFA TELLS US THAT PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM DISCUSSED BREIFLY WITH PRIME MINISTER RAZAK IMPACT OF APPOINTMENT TO MALAYSIAN CABINET OF SABAH CHIF MINISTER, TUN MUSTAPHA, AT MEETING IN BALI SEPT 7. RAZAK SAID BETTER TO HAVE MUSTAPHA OUT OF SABAH AND AWAY FROM PRESSURES FROM MUSLIM REFUGEES FROM SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. RAZAK SAID HE HIMSELF WAS STILL MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND THAT CHANGE WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE TILL EARLY NEXT YEAR. END SUMMARY

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2. AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (JOHN LAVETT,

ASST SECRETARY, SOUTH EAST ASIA BRANCH) REVIEWED BRIEFLY WITH EMBOFF SEPT 19 PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S MEETING WITH MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER RAZAK IN BALI SEPT 7. LAVETT HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT MEETING HAD BEEN SET UP AT LAST MINUTE AND DID NOT RPT NOT COVER ISSUES OF MAJOR SUBSTANCE. HOWEVER, LAVETT SAID THERE WAS SHORT DISCUSSION OF IMPACT OF TUN MUSTAPHA APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE, COVERING FOL POINTS:

3. INFORMED BY DFA OF MUSTAPHA APPOINTMENT (ONLY BRIEFING ITEM WHICH DFA COULD GET TO WHITLAM IN TIME FOR MEETING), WHITLAM ASKED RAZAK IF NEW POST FOR MUSTAPHA WOULDN'T RAISE PROBLEMS. RAZAK REPLIED THAT SO LONG AS MUSTAPHA IS CHIEF MINISTER OF SABAH, HE WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE FROM MUSLIM REFUGEES IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AND THAT IT IS BETTER TO HAVE MUSTAPHA OUT OF SABAH. RAZAK ADDED THAT HE HIMSELF WAS STILL MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND THAT CHANGE WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR. WHITLAM SAID HE WAS SORRY HE HAD NOT HAD CHANCE TO SEE MUSTAPHA WHEN WHITLAM HAD REST STOP IN SABAH ON RETURN TO AUSTRALIA FROM VISIT TO PHILIPPINES EARLIER IN 1974.

4. WHITLAM NOTED THAT ONE OF MUSTAPHA'S WIVES IS AUSTRALIAN (FORMER CABARET GIRL, FOR WHOM MUSTAPHA BUILT CONSIDERABLE MANSION IN GOLD COAST AREA OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND) AND COMMENTED IN JOCLAR FASHION THAT MUSLIMS HAVE AN ADVANTAGE OVER CHRISTIANS, IN THAT LATTER ARE REQUIRED TO BE MORE GENERALLY DISCREET, FAITHFUL, AND MONOGAMOUS IN RELATIONS WITH WOMEN. RAZAK SAID THAT BOTH SYSTEMS HAVE ADVANTAGES, BUT CHINESE IN PRC MAY BE IN MOST ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION OF ALL, SINCE THEY HAVE ABOLISHED SEX ALTOGETHER, (ALTHOUGH 10 YEARS AGO, CHINA'S LEADERS WERE SEXAGENARIANS).

5. LAVETT SAID THAT GOA HAS HAD OCCASIONAL PROBLEMS WITH VISITS OF MUSTAPHA TO AUSTRALIA, SINCE HE COMES ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, USING ASSUMED NAMES. ON ONE OCCASION IN LATE 1973 (WHICH GOA LEARNED OF ONLY MONTHS LATER) MUSTAPHA ARRIVED IN DARWIN ON PRIVATE PLANE WITH ASSUMED NAME AND AS MEMBER OF CREW. AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS NOTED

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CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF JEWELRY HE WAS WEARING (RINGS, ETC) AND CAME TO INITIAL CONCLUSION THAT THIS MALAYSIAN (WHOSE REAL IDENTITY THEY DID NOT, OF COURSE, KNOW) MIGHT BE JEWELRY SMUGGLER. MUSTAPHA SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING CUSTOMS OFFICIALS THAT JEWELRY WAS INHERITED AND THAT HE WOULD TAKE IT OUT OF AUSTRALIA WITH HIM. THERE IS UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT MUSTAPHA'S AUSTRALIAN WIFE HAS MOVED TO ENGLAND, FOLLOWING CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY

REGARDING MANSION ON GOLD COAST.
GREEN

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NNN

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